

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION CREATED BY REPUBLIC CUSTOM PRODUCTS OF THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Arizona law says you cannot drive  
under the influence of alcohol or drugs  
when your ability to drive is impaired

# TO THE “SLIGHTEST DEGREE”

Arizona has ZERO tolerance for

# DUI

THIS SECTION PAID FOR BY A PORTION OF DUI FINES



## Letter from the Governor

Every day a constant line of cars brings new residents and visitors to Arizona, an expansion we welcome in the Grand Canyon State.

But with the new neighbors, economic prosperity and development comes congestion on our roadways, the valuable arteries connecting us to our families, friends and jobs. We need to protect our roadways—to ensure they are safe for the millions of motorists and their passengers who rely on them daily. The best thing you can do is drive wisely: Always buckle up, obey posted speed limits and be courteous.

Most important, don't drive impaired: It puts everyone else on the road at risk. Unfortunately, too many people get behind the wheel after they've had too much to drink. Each year, nearly 500 people are killed on Arizona's roads as the result of alcohol-impaired crashes—a staggering 17,000 deaths nationally. In 2003, 42 percent of all traffic fatalities in Arizona were alcohol-related; that's 2 percent higher than the national average. Further, in 2003, impaired drivers contributed to the already immense economic loss suffered by Arizona because of traffic crashes—\$3.19 billion, or \$57,000 per Arizonan.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that one in 10 cars on the road with you is being driven by an impaired driver. Further, NHTSA estimates that a motorist who gets a DUI has driven impaired by alcohol and/or other drugs 200 times before getting that first DUI. As a motorist, there's a 30 percent chance you will be involved in an alcohol-related collision in your lifetime. Unfortunately, that's better than a chance for rain in Arizona!

Annually, law enforcement officers arrest more than 40,000 impaired drivers, and Arizona's 17 DUI Task Forces continue to saturate the state throughout the year, constantly setting new levels for the number of arrests. I wish these officers didn't have to spend their time arresting impaired drivers and putting their own lives in even greater risk. But as long as people make the dangerous decision to drive impaired, law enforcement will aggressively remove these drivers from our roads.

There's a simple solution for this national, and local, epidemic: Don't drive impaired.

How much is too much? If you have to ask, you already have your answer. So when you go out and enjoy Arizona's fine restaurants and bars, or when celebrating with family and friends where alcohol is involved, plan ahead for a safe, sober ride home. Use a designated driver—and not just "the least drunk" person in your group; call a sober friend or a cab; take a bus. Just don't get behind the wheel if you've had too much to drink. Further, if you suspect impaired driving, report it. You can call 911 or local law enforcement to make a full report.

Finally, read this special section that highlights the laws, the penalties and the people working overtime to remove these threats from our roads. Pay special attention to the victims of these impaired drivers. And share this information with your friends, children and parents. Education is a valuable tool in removing impaired drivers before they make the wrong decision, and it may keep them from putting themselves—and everyone else—in danger.

Together, our efforts can help make the roads safer for everyone. And always buckle up—it's your best defense against an impaired driver.

Janet Napolitano  
Governor



## Letter from the Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) is the focal point for highway safety issues in Arizona. GOHS provides leadership by developing, promoting and coordinating programs; influencing public and private policy; and increasing public awareness of highway safety.

GOHS is fortunate to work with so many outstanding partners to accomplish its mission, especially with the complete support and dedication of Governor Janet Napolitano, her staff, and our regional and national offices of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Oversight Council on Driving and Operating Under the Influence Abatement is a natural local partner in our goal to reduce impaired driving because its funding comes from DUI fines. So it's appropriate that impaired drivers paid for this special section's publication and distribution to educate the public about the dangers of this all-too-common practice of getting behind the wheel while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. I would like to recognize Michael Hegarty, my deputy director, and Mike Daniels, our Phoenix intern, for creating and bringing this special section to life.

For the commitment and efforts they put forth every day, I would like to personally thank the men and women of law enforcement and their support staff throughout the Department of Public Safety, police departments, sheriff's offices and the Department of Liquor and License Control. They are the first line of defense against impaired drivers and essential to maintaining safe roadways in Arizona. Organizations like MADD and SADD are tireless in their proactive efforts.

All these public servants faithfully and enthusiastically remove impaired drivers during their regular shifts and as part of the state's highly successful, and nationally recognized, DUI Task Forces. And they continue to increase their effectiveness. More and more officers are becoming certified Drug Recognition Experts and phlebotomists, and with the use of the latest technology and equipment, we are making great strides toward making the roads throughout Arizona safer for everyone.

The consequences for DUI are severe, as you'll discover in this special section. To learn more about impaired driving and our office, visit our Web site at [www.azgohs.gov](http://www.azgohs.gov). We'd appreciate learning your thoughts. E-mail us at [comments@azgohs.gov](mailto:comments@azgohs.gov). Every person can make a difference in making our streets safer.

Richard Fimbres  
Director



**In the U.S.,  
17,000 people are  
killed annually by  
alcohol-impaired  
drivers.**

*Source: National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration*

## YOUR RIGHTS:

- You can refuse the field sobriety tests.
- You can refuse a breathalyzer test or blood draw. However, your license will automatically be suspended for 12 months, & a search warrant will be issued on the spot to draw your blood.
- You have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to call an attorney.

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# ARIZONA'S DUI LAWS

## Under 21 DUI: (Title 4 - 244.33)

It is unlawful for a person under age 21 to operate or be in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while there is any spirituous liquor in the person's body. A conviction for Underage DUI is a misdemeanor criminal conviction.

## General DUI: (Title 28 - 1381.A1)

It is unlawful for a person to drive or be in actual physical control of a vehicle in Arizona under any of the following circumstances:

- While under the influence of intoxicating liquor; any drug; a vapor-releasing substance containing a toxic substance; or any combination of liquor, drugs or vapor-releasing substances if the person is impaired to the slightest degree.
- If the person has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more within two hours of driving or being in physical control of the vehicle.
- While there is any drug defined in Section 13-3401 or its metabolite in the person's body.

- If the vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle that requires a person to obtain a commercial driver's license as defined in Section 28-3001 and the person has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.04 or more.

A conviction of DUI is considered a misdemeanor criminal conviction.

## Extreme DUI: (Title 28-1382)

It is unlawful for a person to drive or be in actual physical control of a motor vehicle in this state if the person has an alcohol concentration of 0.15 or more within two hours of driving or being in actual physical control of the vehicle. A person who is convicted of a violation of this section is guilty of driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the extreme influence of intoxicating liquor.

A conviction of Extreme DUI is considered a misdemeanor criminal conviction.

## Felony/Aggravated DUI:

(Title 28-1383)

A person is guilty of aggravated driving or actual physical control while under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or drugs if the person does any of the following:

- Commits a violation of section 28-1381, 28-1382 or this section, (28-1383), while the person's driver's license or privilege to drive is canceled, suspended, revoked or refused while a restriction is placed on the person's driver's license or privilege to drive as a result of violating section 28-1381, 28-1382, or under section 28-1385.
- Within a period of 60 months (5 years), commits a third or subsequent violation of section 28-1381, 28-1382 or this section, 28-1383.
- Commits a violation of 28-1381 or 28-1382 while a person under 15 years of age is in the vehicle.

A conviction of Aggravated DUI is considered a felony conviction.

## PENALTIES & SENTENCING

If you're underage and get a DUI, this is what it will cost you:

- \$750 fine plus surcharges
- Up to 4 months in jail\*
- A criminal record for minor in possession of alcohol, and/or for a minor driving under the influence

Other potential costs:

- \$3,500-plus in attorney's fees
- Increased auto insurance premiums
- Refusal for admission to college
- Loss of employment
- Inability to obtain employment
- Potential withdrawal of driver's license until age 18

For the following offenses, driving privileges are revoked for varying amounts of time.

The least punishment for a first offense DUI: (see Title 28 - 1381)

- \$250 fine plus a surcharge (e.g., \$250 fine PLUS surcharge of up to 80 percent of fine)

- Assessments of \$1,000 (Assessments are non-negotiable charges set by statute, with set amounts going to state programs.)
- 10 days in jail\*
- Hidden costs—loss of time from work, being fired, forfeiting future job opportunities, humiliation and attorney's fees.

The least punishment for a second offense DUI: (see Title 28 - 1381)

- \$500 fine plus a surcharge
- Assessments of \$2,500
- 90 days in jail\*
- Cost for installation and use of Ignition Interlock Device, a device that requires the driver to submit to an in-car breathalyzer test before the car will start

The least punishment for a first offense Extreme DUI (.15+ BAC): (see Title 28-1382)

- \$250 fine plus surcharge
- \$250 DUI abatement fee
- Assessments of \$2,000
- 30 days in jail\*
- Cost for installation and use of Ignition Interlock Device

The least punishment for a second offense Extreme DUI: (see Title 28-1382)

- \$500 fine plus a surcharge
- Assessments of \$2,500
- 120 days in jail\*
- Cost for installation and use of Ignition Interlock Device

The least punishment for a Felony/Aggravated DUI: (see Title 28-1383)

- \$750 fine plus surcharge
- Assessments of \$1,750
- An additional \$500 assessment if you refused to be tested for BAC upon arrest
- Not less than 4 months in prison\*
- Alcohol screening and follow-up treatment as recommended

- Cost of installation and use of Ignition Interlock Device

Other possible penalties:

- A sentence from the mandatory minimum to five years of probation, a \$2,500 fine plus surcharge, 180 days in jail, community service and restitution to any victims, increased car insurance rates

**In 2004, 1,150  
deaths occurred on  
Arizona roadways—  
38% were  
alcohol-related.**

Source: National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration

\*The judge has discretion to suspend a portion—but not all—of the jail sentence if an alcohol screening and follow-up treatment is successfully completed as recommended (\$85 fee). A person is responsible for his or her own jail costs.



# OFFICERS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE

If law enforcement officers are not safe on Arizona's roadways, is anybody?

**M**ore than 17,000 lives are lost to alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers in the United States each year; nearly 500 of them are in Arizona. In addition, drivers under the influence of alcohol and other drugs injure about 8,000 people annually in the Grand Canyon State.

*No one is safe from an impaired driver.* Just ask members of the East Valley DUI Task Force. "A badge and a gun don't make you immune from this problem," says Chandler Police Officer William "Jed" Gunter, who has the scars to prove it.

## Lives on the line

Gunter, the 1994 Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Officer of the Year, was one of at least four officers from the multi-agency enforcement team who were struck by impaired drivers while apprehending DUI offenders over a two-year period. But none of these men have given up on making Arizona's roads safer by removing impaired drivers. Through their professional duties, and with special presentations to schools, businesses and criminals, all of them are enforcing these

laws and educating the public about the dangers of impaired driving.

During the Holiday DUI Task Force on Dec. 11, 1998, Gunter was chasing a suspected drunk driver and attempting a U-turn when a truck driven by 39-year-old Donna Marrietta, herself legally impaired, turned directly into him. Gunter's motorcycle was struck head-on by the truck, throwing him into the windshield. He bounced back onto the pavement and spent the next month in a coma; Marrietta received minor injuries, plus seven years in prison.

Before Gunter regained consciousness, tragedy struck the Chandler force again. On Jan. 7, 1999, while en route to investigate the report of a driver who had passed out at the wheel, Chandler Police Officer Chris Emmons was struck by a teenage driver who thought he could beat the cross traffic. Emmons was tossed over the bed of the teenager's truck, landing on the roadway. He suffered a traumatic brain injury and fractured vertebrae.

## Getting the message out

Neither officer returned to 100 percent

physically, but both are committed to removing impaired drivers from the roads. While Emmons was able to return to the streets to arrest DUI offenders—but in a car, not on a motorcycle—Gunter was only physically able to educate the public through presentations with Emmons.

They spend as much time as they can, talking to schools, businesses and offenders, and at Citizen and Youth Academies about the dangers of impaired driving.

"We wake them up a little bit," Gunter says. "They think they're invincible, that it can't happen to them, but I'm the guy who says it can."

Gunter and Emmons wait until the end of the presentation to share their personal experiences. "Their jaws drop," Gunter says. "It sticks home."

## Officers—and the public—still at risk

Unfortunately, not enough people are getting the message. Over Labor Day weekend in 2000, Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Andrewson and Lt. Bill Hindman were both struck by a 20-year-old driver who was high on marijuana and alcohol. They were stationed on the road off the Bush Highway, about 200 feet back, "a safe distance, typically," Andrewson says.

Not this time.

James Collins, Jr., operating his Pontiac Grand Am with a .161 blood alcohol level—twice the legal limit—went left of center at

an estimated 88 mph and sideswiped another car, tearing off the rear axle of his own car and redirecting it toward Andrewson and then-Sgt. Hindman. The spinning car struck both motorcyclists at a speed close to 50 mph, hurling Andrewson 60 feet off his bike and Hindman 90 feet.



Even police officers are at risk from impaired drivers.

Andrewson dislocated his left shoulder, broke both his ankles and ruptured nerves in his back; Hindman broke his femur, dislocated his knee and ruptured his quadriceps. Hindman still limps. Now a lieutenant, he is responsible for MCSO's motorcycle unit, although he doesn't get on a motorcycle as often as he'd like. "I drive a desk now," he jokes.

Andrewson still can't raise his left arm above his shoulder, even after six operations, and he has back injuries that won't heal. He's physically unable to work as a deputy so the Sheriff's Office has retrained him as a polygraph examiner.



### Staggering numbers

On the enforcement side, Hindman has the same aspirations for the day when DUI Task Forces are unnecessary. "I wish we no longer had a need for DUI Task Forces, but there's never a lack of impaired drivers. Our officers never get bored," he says. "It's a shame, and at the same time, thank God these enforcements are out there."

Last year, Arizona DUI Task Forces arrested more than 5,500 people for DUI. Statewide, more than 40,000 people are issued DUI citations annually.

Hindman seems destined to be out there removing impaired drivers—the Labor Day 2000 crash was the third time he's been hit by a drunk driver. "I was pretty disgusted with society in general after this last one," he admits. "I figured everybody on the road was driving drunk, and I got paranoid, thinking if I'm not arresting them, I'm getting hit by them."

### Educating offenders

Andrewson, however, hasn't stopped removing impaired drivers. Instead of working on the enforcement side, he's working the education angle. He is a member of the Archangels, a nonprofit organization that provides support to victims of impaired drivers. As an Archangel, he speaks regularly at Victim Impact Panels to DUI offenders and other groups.

He hopes people will learn the lesson.

Collins, the impaired driver who struck the two officers, has 12 years in prison to think about it, though he doesn't have to suffer what either officer experienced. Andrewson serves as a reminder that Collins could have killed more people the night he nearly ended Andrewson and Hindman's lives.

"They haven't hurt anybody yet, but you can only tell them they are lucky so many times," Andrewson says. "In telling these people what can happen, I'm hoping they'll tell their friends; I'm hoping the message will multiply."

Yet he wishes he didn't have to speak over and over again about what happened to him, what happens to too many people. "Every time I speak at Victim Impact Panels, I'd like no one to be there, but that's not the situation," Andrewson says.

**"I wish we no longer had a need for DUI Task Forces, but there's never a lack of impaired drivers. Our officers never get bored."**

*Maricopa County Lieutenant  
Bill Hindman*

### A message with impact

Part of his frustration comes from the public's refusal to learn from the lessons of others. "Despite the amount of effort we make, stupidity still reigns," Hindman says.

Subtle approaches aren't going to change the driving public's behavior. "We need to impact them in an unforgettable way."

In presentations, he likes to display the remains of Andrewson's and his motorcycles.

An accompanying sign reads, "This is compliments of one drunk driver. We returned the favor with 12.5 years in prison."

When a relative of the young driver saw the demonstration, he sent an irate message to their office. "If it caused a reaction from the defendant's family, that's what we're looking for," he says. "The only way to get through to some people

is to shock them, to be in their face."

Emmons shares this belief. "If we could make people look at DUI drivers the same way people look at child molesters, I'd be out of a job," he says.

Until that day, Emmons and the rest of his colleagues will continue to enforce Arizona's impaired driving laws and educate the public, one person at a time if necessary.

"If one person makes the decision after drinking to walk home or take a taxi rather than hurt somebody, then that's time well spent," he says. \*

# DUI TASK FORCES OUT IN FORCE

**Warning: If you choose to drink and drive, a law enforcement task force is out there waiting for you!**

**A** rizona now boasts 17 DUI Task Forces—multi-agency cooperative efforts of various law enforcement agencies (police departments, sheriff's offices, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Liquor License and Control), prosecutors and nonprofit safety groups. They share their equipment and resources to aggressively enforce Arizona's impaired driving laws.

Most perform saturation patrols, where officers concentrate on a designated area and return the offenders to a shared command post for processing, allowing the officers to return more quickly to the streets. Last year, these enforcement campaigns issued more than 5,500 DUIs.

"The effectiveness of a joint agency DUI task force cannot be overstated," says Scottsdale Police Sgt. Dave Larson, co-chair of the East Valley DUI Task Force. "It not only removes a high number of impaired drivers from our roadways, it

also sends a message to the public that the police are out in force and they should consider another form of transportation before they start a night of partying."

Accompanying these task force deployments is an educational and awareness campaign about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or other substances. A vital component to reducing this problem, the campaign includes paid radio or TV ads and relies heavily on a strong partnership with the media to report the results.

"It's important that the public be aware that Arizona does not tolerate impaired driving," says Richard Fimbres, director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, which helps fund the DUI Task Forces. "We warn people not to drive impaired, and then have the officers out in force to remove those who make the wrong decision and get behind the wheel."

*Consider yourself warned. Drive sober. \**



**Mesa Officer Ron Martinez enters information at a multi-agency task force.**

EMILY PIRANO

# BLOOD DRAW

To keep up with technological advances in determining a motorist's level of impairment, law enforcement officials are stepping up their training in recognizing dangerous behaviors. Arizona now has close to 400 Drug Recognition Experts and 450 officers and deputies qualified to draw blood from suspects.

The DRE Program and procedures were initially developed in the 1970s by the Los Angeles Police Department. This program trains selected officers to utilize a 12-step evaluation procedure to determine whether an individual is under the influence of drugs, and then to determine the category of drug causing the observable impairment. The procedure enables the DRE to rule in (or out) many medical conditions that may contribute to the impairment. Although the primary focus is DUI enforcement, the procedures have been applied to Health and Safety Code violations, probation, parole, drugs in the workplace and other areas where accurately identifying the drug-impaired individual is relevant.

In 1995, the Arizona Department of Public Safety became the first law enforcement agency in the country to create a phlebotomy program. Officers complete an intensive, hands-on, 40-hour training—including 100 blood draws—before becoming a qualified Law Enforcement Phlebotomist.

The Phlebotomy Program has expanded to more than 40 agencies across Arizona. The state is considered a leader in training and implementing this program that allows for the most accurate determination of an individual's blood alcohol concentration.

The Phlebotomy Program has been challenged in Arizona's courts—and been ruled a safe and legal form of collection. For individuals who refuse to provide a blood sample during an investigation for impaired driving, a warrant can be issued almost immediately. Individuals who refuse to provide a blood or breath sample will automatically have their licenses suspended for 12 months.

"The DUI blood-draw program coupled with the Blood Search Warrant process has sent a strong message in Arizona that law enforcement will do everything legally possible to prosecute the impaired driver," says Scottsdale Sgt. David Larson, whose department relies 100 percent on blood draws for DUI cases. \*



Phlebotomist Dianna Ross draws blood at a multi-agency task force.

EMILY PIRAINO

# UNDERCOVER TEENS

The Covert Underage Buyer program is an innovative way to curb alcohol sales to minors.

Arizona has been active and innovative in its efforts to curtail access to alcohol by minors. One such program is the Covert Underage Buyer program—or CUB.

A CUB is a young person between the ages of 16 and 19. Under the direction of the Phoenix Youth Alcohol Squad, police departments, and the Department of Liquor License and Control, a CUB enters stores reported to sell alcohol to minors and attempts to purchase alcohol. He or she possesses valid identification for age verification and, if asked, cannot lie about his/her age. The CUB selects an alcoholic beverage and places it on the

counter for purchase. At this point, the clerk either passes or fails this compliance check. Sometimes the clerk says nothing and conducts the purchase. Sometimes the clerk asks for ID.

"It's all about compliance—are they doing what they have been entrusted to do?" says former CUB Mike Daniels.

When a CUB is in a store, an adult official is present to observe the interaction between the CUB and the clerk. The night will end in one of two ways: Either the clerk and/or the owner will be cited—resulting in a myriad of fines and charges, and sometimes in the immediate firing of the clerk by the on-

duty manager. Or the clerk and the owner will be complimented for their compliance by an officer after the attempted purchase.

## Combating underage drinking

The Youth Alcohol Education and Enforcement Squad began in 1994 to combat underage drinking in Phoenix. All squad members specialize in the area of traffic-related alcohol/drug-education programs and criminal investigations. All are required to be Drug Recognition Experts (DREs).

One of their primary responsibilities is to conduct traffic-safety and drug-awareness presentations for young drivers in high schools.

In addition, the squad conducts a variety of enforcement programs including DUI enforcement, Cops-in-Shops, Covert Underage Buyer, Shoulder Tap and Party Enforcement programs. Each program is intended to address some particular aspect of the issue, with the overall goal of reducing the number of underage people involved in serious or fatal alcohol/drug-related traffic collisions. \*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you know of a business that is selling alcohol to underage persons, you can make a report by visiting <http://phoenix.gov/EMAIL/appliquor.html>.

# NOWHERE TO HIDE

The most dangerous drivers on the road are those with outstanding traffic warrants, especially DUIs. Those motorists with a history of traffic citations and DUI arrests are four times more likely to be involved in crashes than other drivers, and those either unlicensed or driving with a suspended license are 66.4 times more likely to be hit-and-run drivers than people with valid licenses.

That's why the Mesa Police Department created the Unsafe Drivers Program, a task force to locate and apprehend violators who have been arrested for suspended and revoked licenses as well as DUI and Title IV violators. An administrative officer puts together files on the fugitives, and officers go out several times a week to bring them in to atone for their crimes.

"It's closing the enforcement gap," says Lt. Ben Kulina, who created the Mesa program.

They bring in more than 50 warrants per month. Some fugitives come forward on their own—and some through the help of others. When *The Arizona Republic* ran a story about the program and published the mug shots and names of five fugitives of the police department, Mesa received enough information within 24 hours to locate three of the five offenders.

This success has led DPS to duplicate the program and many other agencies to consider it. \*



# BLOOD ALCOHOL & YOU

**B**lood alcohol content, (BAC), is the percent of alcohol in the bloodstream. It is used to determine the level of impairment. Arizona law defines DUI at 0.08; extreme DUI is 0.15. For those under 21, Arizona has a zero tolerance, which means 0.00 BAC.

Alcohol impairs vision and motor coordination, among other reactions. The use of substances and medications, both over-the-counter and prescription, can affect your behavior and are not detected in your BAC.

**0.08** Legally drunk, deterioration of reaction time and control.

**0.15** Impaired balance, movement and coordination. Difficulty standing, walking, talking.

**0.20** Decreased pain and sensation. Erratic emotions.

**0.30** Diminished reflexes. Semiconscious.

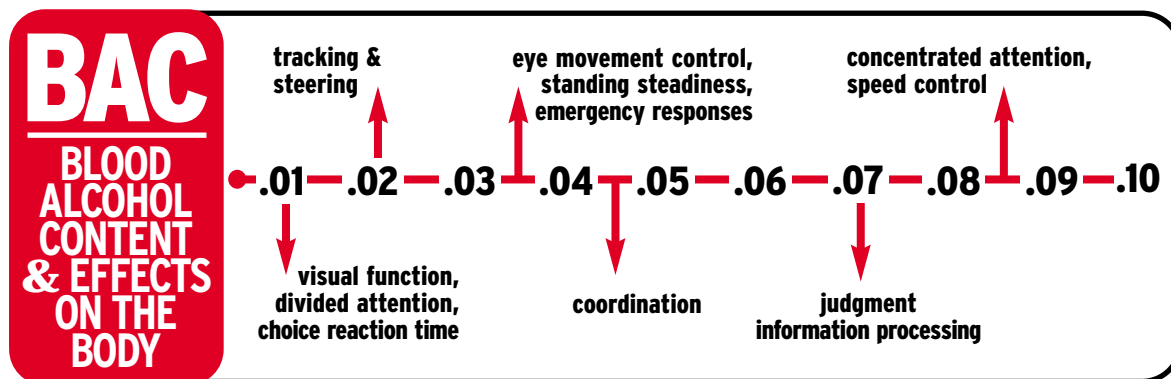
**0.40** Loss of consciousness. Very limited reflexes. Anesthetic effects.

**0.50** Death.

## CAUTION:

Death has been documented to occur at BAC levels as low as 0.35. Remember, each person is different.

The absence of symptoms does not guarantee safe or low blood alcohol levels. With regular drinking, a person will develop a tolerance to alcohol that will reduce the outward appearance of high blood alcohol levels. \*



## YOUR CAR... OR OURS?

**F**ailure to plan ahead can be a costly option. Most people don't plan on driving impaired and potentially killing someone.

But a little planning before you get in your car could save your life—both physically from a crash, and from the repercussions of a DUI.

Probably the most reliable and effective means of planning is designating a driver. It's easy—draw straws, play rock-paper-scissors or volunteer. However the driver is designated, make sure that you have one and that the driver stays sober. Don't leave it to the "least drunk" person in your group.

Others have family members or friends on whom they can rely to call if they need a safe ride home. Anyone can call a cab, or ask your servers to hail one for you.

Some cab companies have a program where you pay to take the cab to the bar



Officer Max Merritt of the Glendale Police Department mans their squad's DUI "cab."

or restaurant, and they'll give you a free ride home from the establishment. Others offer discounted rates if you leave your car at the bar, and will bring you back the next day—for free.

The Glendale Police Department, an active member of the West Valley DUI Task Force, has an innovative "cab" set up for those who choose to drive impaired. It comes complete with a flashing light and rates listed on the side. There's no charge for the ride, but it's not free and

won't take you home. The "cab" is a police cruiser used to transport those arrested for DUI to jail. Minimum fare—after fines, assessments and court costs, and before "extras" like lawyers' fees—is more than \$3,000. That's a lot more than a \$20 cab ride home.

It's a special message from the officers to those who fail to plan ahead: You have no excuse, and because you failed to plan, you get to ride to jail in their "cab" instead of going home in yours. \*

## TRUE / FALSE

**1. Alcohol is a mood-altering stimulant.**

**FALSE:** Alcohol is a mood-altering drug that depresses bodily functions.

**2. Drinking coffee or taking a cold shower will sober you up.**

**FALSE:** Nothing but time will sober up someone who has been drinking.

**3. The effects that alcohol has on the body vary according to the individual.**

**TRUE:** The effect that alcohol has is dependent on a person's sex, weight, how fast alcohol is metabolized, the situation, mood and presence of food in the person's stomach.

**4. Women respond to alcohol differently than men do.**

**TRUE:** Women respond more quickly to alcohol because of their smaller body size and fat distribution, a lower amount of alcohol metabolizing enzyme and increased hormonal changes.

**5. If you're under 21 and had only one drink, it's legal to drive.**

**FALSE:** It's illegal for anyone under 21 to consume any alcohol. Any alcohol in a minor's system is considered a DUI, regardless of BAC.

## GET INVOLVED

### SADD

(STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS)

- is a school-based organization present in 300 Arizona schools
- provides students with prevention and intervention tools
- builds students' confidence and ability to create changes and manage behavior
- promotes a "no use" message

For info on SADD, please call (623) 434-1670

### MADD

(MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING)

- seeks to stop drunk driving
- supports the victims of drunk driving
- seeks to prevent underage drinking
- provides statewide victim services and public education
- partners with businesses, individuals and public agencies to educate about the dangers of drinking and driving

For info on MADD, please call (602) 234-1754

# BOOZE, CRUISE & LOSE

An offender describes his first day in jail for DUI.

By Arek Sarkissian

**N**o encouraging thoughts come to mind as I walk toward the gate of the Pima County Jail to turn myself in on this hot, Friday afternoon, hours after sentencing at the Pima County Superior Court for DUI.

I take a seat on a soiled cement bench and watch as officers yank a short man out of a Tucson police car. He looks right at me, hurling a slew of obscenities.

Suddenly a hidden loud speaker blares, "Sarkinson (pause), hey SARKISSIAN, wait at the damn door."

"Don't let it bother you," I say to myself. With what lies ahead, a mispronunciation of

my name or a few empty threats from some anonymous criminal are the least of my worries. I have to spend four months away from my friends, family, home-cooked meals—and my bed—in jail, all because I chose to drink and drive.

I have my mug shot taken and my fingerprints rolled out. I'm crammed into a 10-foot-by-10-foot cell with six other guys. Aside from a move from one cell to another, we spend five hours just waiting.

The ventilation in the room is so bad that all of us gasp for the vile stench of the jail hallway each time corrections officers open the door. The stale-beer and BO smell

out there is better than in the shoebox where they've shoved a half-dozen tired, sweaty, grown men.

Thinking about it all, I was not only selfish enough not to think about the lives of others when I drank and drove, I'm also giving up my dignity, all because I didn't think to call a cab.

After another four hours waiting in booking, a generous strip search and being issued my mandatory polyester jail uniform, I cry myself to sleep in my rock hard bunk, wishing I had never agreed to be there. Alas, I didn't really agree: Any DUI, by statute, requires jail time. \*



EMILY PIRANO

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE  
DEPARTMENTS FOR HELPING MAKE  
OUR ARIZONA STREETS SAFER:**



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Arizona DUI Task Force



Department of Liquor  
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602-542-5141



Students Against  
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623-434-1670  
www.saddonline.com



National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration  
(NHTSA)  
888-327-4236  
www.nhtsa.dot.gov



Department of Public  
Safety (DPS)  
602-223-2000  
www.azdps.gov



Arizona Department of  
Transportation (ADOT)  
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